

Routine Proceedings

They call upon this government to replace under the jurisdiction of the Wheat Board and to give oats and barley the same protection that wheat now has under the Canadian Wheat Board.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions from residents in my part of British Columbia who wish to bring attention to this tax-crazed government.

The first petition is with regard to the additional tax on long distance calls which they feel is an unfair burden on northern and rural Canadians who must use these services.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, my second petition is on the grief and suffering tax as it is known across the country. The residents of the riding of Caribou—Chilcotin and other areas are expressing their concern to this government in introducing this very unfair tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 with two petitions signed by a number of residents from Calgary, Alberta and the cities of Revelstoke, Kimberley and the communities of Winfield, Nakusp, Westbank and Burton, all in the southeast corner of British Columbia.

The petitioners condemn the cancelling of the Canadian line of the VIA system and call upon Parliament to maintain VIA Rail's present national network to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and to give VIA Rail the sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present to the government a petition signed by Vernon residents, members of the Communities Against Sexual Abuse, that call on the government to revise the laws of Canada and allow the Canada Evidence Act to better serve victims with disabilities, allowing them to communicate their account of their victimization in court.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to also present to the House today again under the provisions of Standing Order 36, my first instalment consisting of 88 petitions, a total of 7,500 signatures, residents of the Okanagan—Shuswap area, who are simply outraged with the government's proposed goods and services tax.

The 7,500 petitioners call upon the government to reject the proposed goods and services tax and to consult with business, labour and consumer groups to reach a broad consensus on reform of the tax system before implementing further changes and to ensure that there is a process of fair tax reform that will ensure a healthy climate for future economic growth in Canada.

* * *

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 133 and 164.

[Text]

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD

Question No. 133—**Mr. Heap:**

1. What number of person-years are allocated to the Immigration and Refugee Board?
2. What number of these person-years will be applied to the Appeals Division of the IRB?
3. Will any adjudicators now being hired be solely responsible for refugee claims or will they work in other areas?

Hon. Barbara Jean McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): 1. For the fiscal year 1989-90, a total of 525 person years have been allocated to the Immigration and Refugee Board. A further 217 members of the Immigration and Refugee Board, who are appointed by the Governor-in-Council, are not included in the Board's person-year allocation.

2. Staff person-years are not allocated by Division. Of 217 members of the Immigration and Refugee Board, 22 are allocated to the Immigration Appeal Division.